

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Replace the claims with the following rewritten listing:

1. (Currently amended) Chewing gum comprising

at least one biodegradable polyester copolymer obtained by the polymerization of two or
~~ore~~ more cyclic esters by ring-opening

said at least one biodegradable polyester copolymer having a molecular weight of less
than 150000 g/mol and said chewing gum further comprising chewing gum ingredients.

2. (Original) Chewing gum according to claim 1, wherein the at least one biodegradable
polyester copolymer having a molecular weight of less than 150000 g/mol results in an
improved initial release in the resulting chewing gum.

3. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1 ~~or~~ 2, wherein said at least one
biodegradable polymer has a molecular weight of less than 125000 g/mol.

4. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1-3~~,
wherein said at least one biodegradable polyester copolymer has a molecular weight of
less than 10000 g/mol.

5. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1-4~~,
wherein said at least one biodegradable polyester copolymer has a molecular weight of
less than 6000 g/mol Mn.

6. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1-5~~, wherein
said chewing gum comprises at least two different biodegradable polyester copolymers.

7. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1-6~~, wherein said chewing gum ingredients comprise flavoring agents.

8. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1-7~~, wherein said flavoring agents comprise natural and synthetic flavorings in the form of natural vegetable components, essential oils, essences, extracts, powders, including acids ~~or~~ and other substances capable of affecting the taste profile.

9. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 7 ~~any of claims 1-8~~, wherein said chewing gum comprises flavoring agents in the amount of 0.01 to about 30 wt %, said percentage being based on the total weight of the chewing gum

10. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 7 ~~any of claims 1-9~~, wherein said chewing gum comprises flavoring agents in an amount of 0.2 to about 4 wt %, said percentage being based on the total weight of the chewing gum.

11. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 7 ~~any of claims 1-10~~, wherein said flavoring agent comprises water soluble ingredients.

12. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 11 ~~any of claims 1-11~~, wherein
said water soluble flavoring agents comprise acids.

13. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 7 ~~any of claims 1-12~~, wherein said flavoring agents comprises water insoluble ingredients.

14. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1-13~~, wherein said chewing gum ingredients comprise sweeteners.

15. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 14 ~~any of claims 1-14~~, wherein said sweetener comprises bulk sweeteners.

16. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 15 ~~any of claims 1-15~~, wherein the chewing gum comprises bulk sweeteners in an amount of about 5 to about 95% by weight of the chewing gum, ~~more typically about 20 to about 80% by weight of the chewing gum.~~

17. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 14 ~~any of claims 1-16~~, wherein said sweetener comprises high intensity sweeteners

18. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 17 ~~any of claims 1-17~~, wherein the high intensity sweeteners comprise sucralose, aspartame, salts of acesulfame, alitame, saccharin and its salts, cyclamic acid and its salts, glycyrrhizin, dihydrochalcones, thaumatin, monellin, sterioside, alone or in combination.

19. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 17 ~~any of claims 1-18~~, wherein the chewing gum comprises high intensity sweeteners in an amount of about 0 to about 1% by weight of the chewing gum, ~~more typically about 0.05 to about 0.5% by weight of the chewing gum.~~

20. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1-19~~, wherein the chewing gum comprises at least one softener.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1-21~~, wherein said chewing gum ingredients comprise active ingredients.

23. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 22 ~~any of claims 1–22~~, wherein said active ingredients are selected from the group consisting of:
 Acetaminophen, Acetylsalicylic acid, ~~Acetylsalicylsyre~~ Buprenorphine, Bromhexin, Celcoxib, Codeine, Diphenhydramin, Diclofenac, Etoricoxib, Ibuprofen, Indometacin, Ketoprofen, Lumiracoxib, Morphine, Naproxen, Oxycodon, Parecoxib, Piroxicam, ~~Pseudoefedrin~~, Rofecoxib, Tenoxicam, Tramadol, Valdecoxib, Calciumcarbonat, Magaldrate, Disulfiram, Bupropion, Nicotine, Azithromycin, Clarithromycin, Clotrimazole, Erythromycin, Tetracycline, Granisetron, Ondansetron, Prometazin, Tropisetron, Brompheniramine, Ceterizin, leco-Ceterizin, Chlorcyclizine, Chlorpheniramin, Chlorpheniramin, Difenhydramine, Doxylamine, Fenofenadin, Guaifenesin, Loratidin, des-Loratidin, Phenyltoloxamine, Promethazin, Pyridamine, Terfenadin, Troxerutin, Methyldopa, Methylphenidate, Benzalcon. Chloride, Benzeth. Chloride, Cetylpyrid. Chloride, Chlorhexidine, Ecabet-sodium, Haloperidol, Allopurinol, Colchicine, Theophylline, Propanolol, Prednisolone, Prednisone, Fluoride, Urea, Miconazole, Actot, Glibenclamide, Glipizide, Metformin, Miglitol, Repaglinide, Rosiglitazone, Apomorfin, Cialis, Sildenafil, Vardenafil, Diphenoxylate, Simethicone, Cimetidine, Famotidine, Ranitidine, Ratinidine, cetrizin, Loratadine, Aspirin, Benzocaine, Dextrometorphan, Ephedrine, Phenylpropanolamine, Pseudoephedrine, Cisapride, Domperidone, Metoclopramide, Acyclovir, Dioctylsulfosucc., Phenolphthalein, Almotriptan, Eletriptan, Ergotamine, Migea, Naratriptan, Rizatriptan, Sumatriptan, Zolmitriptan, Aluminium salts, Calcium salts, Ferro salts, Silver salts, Zinc-salte, Amphotericin B, Chlorhexidine, Miconazole, Triamcinolonacetamid, Melatonin, Phenobarbital, Caffeine, Benzodiazepine, Hydroxyzine, Meprobamate, Phenothiazine, Buclizine, Brometazine, Cinnarizine, Cyclizine, Difenhydramine, Dimenhydrinate, Buflomedil, Amphetamine, Caffeine, Ephedrine, Orlistat, Phenylephedrine, Phenylpropanolamin, Pseudoephedrine, Sibutramin, Ketoconazole, Nitroglycerin, Nystatin, Progesterone, Testosterone, Vitamin B12, Vitamin C, Vitamin A, Vitamin D, Vitamin E, Pilocarpin, Aluminiumaminoacetat, Cimetidine, Esomeprazole, Famotidine, Lansoprazole, Magnesiumoxide, Nizatide and or Ratinidine or derivatives and mixtures thereof.

24. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1-23~~, wherein the chewing gum is substantially free of non-biodegradable polymers.

25. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1-24~~, wherein the at least two ore more cyclic esters are selected from the groups consisting of glycolides, lactides, lactones, cyclic carbonates ~~or~~ and mixtures thereof.

26. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 25 ~~any of claims 1-25~~, wherein lactone monomers are chosen from the group consisting of ϵ -caprolactone, δ -valerolactone, γ -butyrolactone, ~~and~~ β -propiolactone, and mixtures thereof; and wherein the lactone monomers are optionally. ~~It also includes ϵ -caprolactones, δ -valerolactones, γ -butyrolactones, or β -propiolactones that have been~~ substituted with one or more alkyl or aryl substituents at any non-carbonyl carbon atoms along the ring, including compounds in which two substituents are contained on the same carbon atom.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1-27~~, wherein the chewing gum comprises filler.

29. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 28 ~~any of claims 1-30~~, wherein the chewing gum comprises filler in an amount of about 0 to about 50% by weight of the chewing gum, ~~more typically about 10 to about 40 % by weight of the chewing gum.~~

30. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1-29~~, wherein the chewing gum comprises at least one coloring agent.-

31. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1-30~~, wherein said chewing gum comprises conventional chewing gum polymers or resins.

32. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1-31~~, wherein the at least one biodegradable polymer comprises at least 5% of the chewing gum polymers.

33. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1-32~~, wherein all the biodegradable polymers comprised in the chewing gum comprise at least 25%, ~~preferably at least 50%~~ of the chewing gum polymers.

34. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1-33~~, wherein all the biodegradable polymers comprised in the chewing gum comprise at least 80%, ~~preferably at least 90%~~ of the chewing gum polymers.

35. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1-34~~, wherein said chewing gum comprises

- said at least one biodegradable polyester copolymer forming a plasticizer of the chewing gum and
- at least one non-biodegradable conventional elastomer.

36. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1-35~~, wherein said chewing gum comprises

- said at least one biodegradable polyester copolymer forming an elastomer of the chewing gum and
- at least one non-biodegradable conventional natural or synthetic resin.

37. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1-36~~, wherein said chewing gum comprises

at least one biodegradable elastomer in the amount of about 0.5 to about 70% wt of the chewing gum,

at least one biodegradable plasticizer in the amount of about 0.5 to about 70% wt of the chewing gum and

at least one chewing gum ingredient chosen from the groups consisting of softeners, sweeteners, flavoring agents, active ingredients and fillers in the amount of about 2 to about 80% wt of the chewing gum.

38. (Currently amended) Gum base comprising the at least one biodegradable polyester copolymer of claim 1 ~~according to any of claims 1-37~~.

39. (New) Chewing gum according to claim 20, wherein the at least one softener comprises tallow, hydrogenated tallow, hydrogenated and partially hydrogenated vegetable oils, cocoa butter, glycerol monostearate, glycerol triacetate, lecithin, mono-, di- and triglycerides, acetylated monoglycerides, fatty acids, stearic acid, palmitic acid, oleic acid, linoleic acid, or mixtures thereof.

40. (New) Chewing gum according to claim 39,
wherein the chewing gum comprises softeners in an amount of about 0 to about 18% by weight of the chewing gum.

41. (New) Chewing gum according to claim 25,
wherein the carbonate monomer is selected from the group consisting of trimethylene carbonate, 5-alkyl-1,3-dioxan-2-one, 5,5-dialkyl-1,3-dioxan-2-one, or 5-alkyl-5-alkyloxycarbonyl-1,3-dioxan-2-one, ethylene carbonate, 3-ethyl-3-hydroxymethyl, propylene carbonate, trimethylolpropane monocarbonate, 4,6-dimethyl-1,3-propylene carbonate, 2,2-dimethyl trimethylene carbonate, 1,3-dioxepan-2-one and mixtures thereof.

42. (New) Chewing gum according to claim 1,
wherein polyester polymers and their copolymers resulting from the polymerization of cyclic ester monomers are selected from the group consisting of poly (L-lactide) ; poly (D-lactide) ; poly (D, L-lactide) ; poly (mesolactide) ; poly (glycolide) ; poly (trimethylenecarbonate) ; poly (epsilon-caprolactone) ; poly (L-lactide-co-D, L-lactide) ; poly (L-lactide-co-meso-lactide) ; poly (L-lactide-co-glycolide) ; poly (L-lactide-co-trimethylenecarbonate) ; poly (L-lactide-co-epsilon-caprolactone) ; poly (D, L-lactide-co-meso-lactide) ; poly (D, L-lactide-co-glycolide) ; poly (D, L-lactide-co-trimethylenecarbonate) ; poly (D, L-lactide-co-epsilon-caprolactone) ; poly (meso-lactide-co-glycolide) ; poly (meso-lactide-co-trimethylenecarbonate) ; poly (meso-lactide-co-epsilon-caprolactone) ; poly (glycolide-cotrimethylenecarbonate) ; poly (glycolide-co-epsilon-caprolactone); and mixtures thereof.